

TRIBUTE TO THE JOLIET
AMERICAN LEGION BAND

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Joliet American Legion Band for winning its 36th national title at the American Legion Senior Band Contest in Orlando, FL.

The Joliet American Legion Band was formed 51 years ago. Since that time, it has grown to 85 members from Joliet and the surrounding areas. The band boasts a wide variety of musicians, ranging in age from 16 to 60 and older. Directed by Tom Drake, the Joliet American Legion Band is proudly sponsored by American Legion Post No. 1284.

All members of the band are volunteers who donate significant practice and performance time for the benefit of the community. Band members delight listeners by marching in parades and playing for a variety of community events. The Joliet American Legion Band also offers several free public concerts throughout the year for the enjoyment of all persons in the community.

Since its formation, the Joliet American Legion Band has merited many accolades and awards. It has won 36 national titles, along with 41 State crowns. Their latest victory is a great source of pride for the Joliet community. Not only has the Joliet American Legion Band been recognized for its excellence by other American Legions across the Nation, but also received a gold medal in 1985 at the International Music Festival in Toronto, Canada.

I urge this body to identify and recognize other volunteer organizations in their communities whose actions have so greatly benefited and enlightened America's citizens.

RECOGNIZING CABRINI COLLEGE
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Cabrini College in Radnor, PA which has the distinguished honor of being named today to the John Templeton Foundation's 1997-98 Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges.

One of only 134 colleges nationwide selected for this honor, Cabrini deserves recognition for its dedication to emphasizing character building as an integral part of student life. Cabrini College's commitment to character building is reflected by the school's inclusion of community service in its student curriculum.

Other aspects of Cabrini College that contributed to its being named to the John Templeton Foundation's Honor Roll include the school's emphasis on developing and strengthening of its students moral reasoning skills, its encouragement of spiritual growth and moral values, and its promotion of character-building programs and activities.

A private, Catholic college located in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Cabrini College's faculty-student interaction, beautiful campus, and excellent curriculum make it one of the most

respected institutions in the region. I am pleased that Cabrini College is receiving the national recognition and respect that it has earned many times over.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing this significant accomplishment of Cabrini College and thanking the John Templeton Foundation for its promotion of character-building colleges like Cabrini.

DURYEA FARM IN MONSEY, NY TO
CONTINUE SERVING COMMUNITY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I am able to report the preservation of a much needed and valued property in my congressional district in Monsey, NY. Earlier this year the Duryea Farm was purchased by the Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation, Inc., which has announced that the farm will retain its agricultural character. This is truly an event to be lauded.

On September 28, 1997, the Duryea Farm will be rededicated to the service of the people of Rockland County. One of the few remaining farms in Rockland, it will become the county's only organic farm. This step is noteworthy, marking the heritage of Rockland County, a place where orchards and barns were once the norm and not the exception.

In addition to reclaiming this fading period of history, the Duryea Farm will house the Jessup Learning Center, named in honor of two longtime area educators. The learning center will focus on farm life through storytelling, photographs, and equipment owned by the Duryea family. Educational programs through the Cooperative Extension will also be offered. The combination of education and farming represents an admirable and worthwhile venture on the behalf of the Rudolf Steiner Fellowship Foundation, Inc., and the people of Rockland County.

Saving this valuable parcel of land from the bulldozers of developers and giving it back to the community is a worthy gesture of goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming a bright future for the Duryea Farm.

ON TRACK WITH OUR NATION'S
INTERESTS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, recently, several Members of Congress, including myself, met with the administration to discuss fast-track trading authority soon to be offered in the House for consideration. This legislation grants the administration authority to negotiate and implement trade agreements with other nations, which Congress would either support or vote down unamended. It is my opinion that this authority is a necessary step toward the President's goal of having hemispheric free trade by the year 2005. More importantly, fast track is a necessary step to strengthen the U.S. economy at home—helping producers,

workers, and consumers. The agreements made as a result of fast track will expand our markets far beyond our shorelines to other nations who desire high quality, American-made products. Exporting companies offer workers jobs, which provide better pay and better benefits. Consumers have a larger variety of products to choose from at more competitive costs.

In the past, fast track has been derailed by special interests, who lack the foresight to see that the general interest of our Nation will benefit from free and open trade—a status that can be greatly assisted by extending traditional trading authority to this administration. The following article, which was printed in the Wall Street Journal, on September 12, 1997, highlights the need to pass fast track to maintain our Nation's role in the international marketplace. If it is not passed, special interests will in the end realize that their selfish motivations cause more harm than good. I hope my colleagues consider the points made in this article and support legislation to extend fast-track trading authority to the administration.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 12, 1997]

U.S. EXPORTERS TO LATIN AMERICA NEED
FAST-TRACK

(By Robert Mosbacher)

When President George Bush unveiled his Enterprise of the Americas Initiative in the early 1990s, many thought the emergent free trade bloc would develop according to a "hub-and-spoke" model. As the "hub" of hemispheric trade, the U.S. would form a series of inter-locking bilateral free trade agreements with the "spoke" nations of Latin America and the Caribbean until these agreements could be melded into a single free trade accord. That vision is slipping away.

President Clinton promised Wednesday to put trade expansion back on the front-burner. He plans to ask Congress to renew fast-track legislation, which would authorize the president to negotiate international trade agreements on which Congress would vote up or down. If he fails to secure fast-track authority, however, the U.S. will be relegated to "spoke" status in the emerging hemispheric trading order, leaving many U.S. businesses at a disadvantage. Furthermore, fast-track authority should be clean—that is, it must not be weighted down with requirements that trade agreements also mandate environmental and labor regulations.

Since the promising 1994 Miami summit, when the proposed trade initiative was renamed the Free Trade Area of the Americas, the U.S. has withdrawn from its leadership role on liberalized trade. Instead, inter-locking trade relationships have been forming around the southern cone customs union—Mercosur—comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Last year, while Washington dithered, Mercosur took decisive action, offering Chile and Bolivia associate membership. This created a market of 220 million potential consumers with a combined gross domestic product of about \$1 trillion—more than twice the economic output of Asean, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

This year, while still waiting for the president to lead on fast-track, Mercosur is planning free trade talks with Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru. Mercosur might soon realize its goal of establishing a South America Free Trade Area, which could serve as a counterweight to Nafta, the North American Free Trade Agreement, in hemispheric free trade talks. Mercosur has already been approached by the European